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DRESS CONSTRUCTION

Principles of Skirt Draping and Fitting
and Garment Finishes

by

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DRESS CONSTRUCTION

Principles of Skirt Draping and Fitting and Garment Finishes

"Learn the sound qualities of all useful stuffs and make everything of the best you can get." Ruskin.

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GARMENT FINISHINGS

A. Seam Finishings.

a. Woolen material

1. Pinking - For closely woven serge, tricotine, velours de laine, etc. Seams which are on the straight or only slightly biased.

2. Binding with bias tape - Used on material which ravel easily, and when seams are on the bias.

3. Overcasting - Used on seams which ravel easily.

4. Tailored stitching - Stitching close to the seam on either side. Sometimes a double row of stitching is used about one-fourth inch apart making four visible stitchings in all.

B. Finishings for Armhole, Neck, Surplus.

For wide facings around armholes or at the neck a fitted facing is better. In cases where a narrow facing is used, a true bias strip makes the neater finish.

C. Hems.

The hem in a wool or silk garment and such cottons as dimity, lawn, organdy, tissue ginghams, should always be put in by hand, never by the machine. Machine stitching makes an ugly line when we do not want any line at all. Then too, if the garment is remodeled, the tracings of the machine stitching are almost impossible to remove. On ordinary wash dresses which are laundered a great deal, the hem may be put in by the machine.

a. Silk.

1. Plain hem - Make the second turning one-third inch and use hemming stitch. These stitches must be small and take them one-half inch apart. If stitches are taken too close on silk it gives the effect of machine stitching.

2. Pinking and hemming stitch - On a material such as taffeta the edge may be pinked and then the hemming stitch used.

b. Wool.

On woolen garments there should never be the second turning as this will make a ridge on pressing.

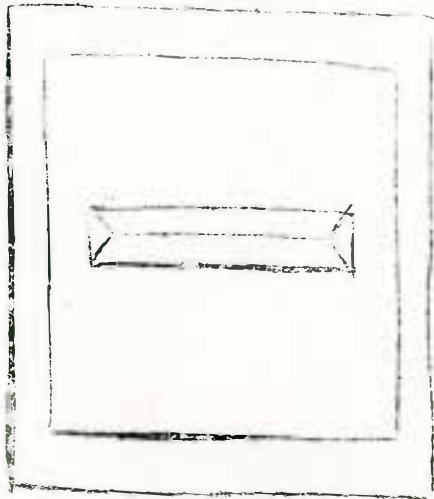
1. Bias tape hem - Use the bias tape flat. Using the machine sew one edge of the bias tape within a fourth of an inch of the top of the hem. Then with the hemming stitch sew the other edge of the tape to the garment. The hand stitching should not come thru to the right side.

2. Pinked edge - On material which does not ravel pink the edges and use hemming stitch. Stitches must not show on the right side.

3. Herringbone or catch stitch. - Leave the raw edge and use the herringbone or catch stitch. This makes a very smooth finish on the right side.

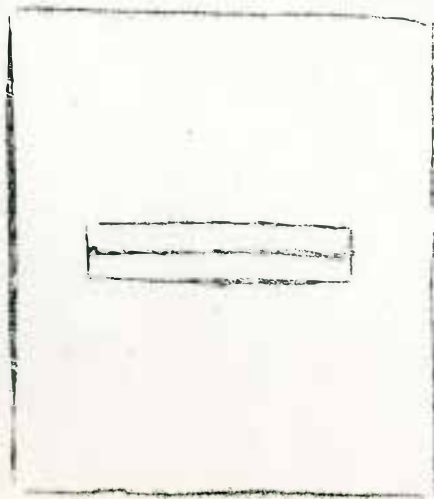
D. Inserted Pockets

a. Silk facing



Mark with tailors chalk the place on the garment where the pocket is desired. Put the two right sides of the material together and sew an oblong as long and as wide as the finished pocket is to be. Cut down through the center, (thru the two materials) and into each corner, being careful not to cut the stitching. Then draw the silk thru. Turn the silk back so that each piece fills up half the opening. This is held in place by stitching around the edge or using tailors tacks at the ends or just catching down the ends by hand sewing. The upper piece is then turned down and stitched on the machine the shape of the pocket desired. The inside edges of the pocket may be finished by overcasting or by bias tape.

b. Wool facing.



A wool piping may be used but if the whole pocket were made of wool it would be too bulky, so usually a small piece of wool is used and to either end silk or cotton pieces are attached. In this way most of the pocket is made of thin material but still only the woolen facing shows.

c. Plackets

1. Tailored placket - Turn both edges of the seam toward the front. Baste in place. On the front gore sew within one-sixth of an inch from the edge of the fold. When the desired length of the placket is stitched, usually ten or twelve inches, pull out the bottom thread four or five inches and break in the center, then continue the stitching making the seam. Thus with the one stitching the placket and side seam are made giving a neat tailored finish. A straight piece of material is tacked to the under side of the placket which makes a more solid foundation for the fasteners.

DRAPING TWO-PIECE SKIRT

The foundation pattern of most skirts is laid on the plain two-piece pattern. The majority of the sport skirts and suit skirts are cut on this pattern.

a. To drape a plain skirt

1. Place belting around waist.
2. Mark the center of the material both front and back.
3. Starting in the center back, pin the material to the top of the belting, allowing it to extend two inches above the top.
4. Put second pin in at the hip line and also on the center back.
5. Work from the hip line, keeping the grain of the material straight across the hips. As fullness is usually desired in the back, this is worked in at the hip line. When the center sides are reached, pin the material in place at the top of the belting.
6. The front of the skirt is draped in the same manner. Usually the front is made plain without gathers. Work from the hip line. If the material is allowed to sag over the hips the skirt will fall to the front.
7. The side seams must be straight from the line under the arm straight down the side.

b. Constructing skirt.

Baste the side seams in place. Sew them making the tailored placket and seam as described on page 3. Gather material at top of belting, turn in raw edge and stitch. Make inserted or patch pockets. Turn the hem and finish in one of the ways described. The width of the belt depends upon the individual. Snaps or hooks and eyes may be used as fasteners.

DRAPING A PLAITED SKIRT

Measurements needed:

a. Waist - Take a close measure in a perfectly straight line without any drop at the front.

b. Hip - Take an easy measurement around the fullest part of the hip.

c. Length - Measure from waist line to floor and subtract desired amount. Hem allowances must be made. Whether there are two or three lengths used in the skirt will depend upon width of material. Most woollen material comes 36, 40, 42, 50, 56, 60 inches wide. If two widths of 50 inch material were used the skirt would be 100 inches or 2 $11/18$ yards around the bottom. The side seams will take up a little of that. With the plaited skirt the first draping is done at the hip line. If one-half of the total measurements are used the numbers aren't quite so large to work with.

Hip measure - 40 inches

Width of material - 50 inches. Two lengths are used, making width 100 inches to encircle 40 inch hip.

100 minus 40 equals 60 inches of material to be put into plaits.

20 - number of plaits (number of plaits matter of choice.)

60 inches divided by 20 equals 3 inches to put into each plait. This will make the plaits one and one-half inches wide.

40 inches (hip measure) divided by 20 (number of plaits) equals 2 inches, distance between each plait, that is from the edge of one plait to the edge of the next.

Measure two inches from center front line and start first plait. Put all plaits in from hip line keeping material straight across the hip. Then work in plaits at the waist line, using waist measure instead of hip measure. The plaits will be larger at the waist line and the distance between them less. This gives a plaited skirt which fits both waist and hip lines.

The plaits may be basted then pressed or they may be sewed to the hip line and pressed in place the rest of the way.